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TRUMAN'S

DRAMATIC

SPEECH

Anti-Totalitarian Foreign Policy

BIG LOANS TO GREECE AND TURKEY REQUESTED

Washington, Mar. 12.

President Truman today appealed to Congress to assist Greece and Turkey to the extent of \$400,000,000 for the period ending June 30, 1948.

In addition to financial aid, President Truman asked Congress to authorize United States civilian and military personnel being sent to Greece and Turkey to assist in reconstruction and supervise the use of the financial and material assistance offered.

President Truman also recommended that authority be provided for the instruction and training of selected Greeks and Turks.

"The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedom. Great responsibilities have been placed upon us by the swift movement of events. I am confident that Congress will face these responsibilities squarely."

The President did not specify how the \$400,000,000 would be divided between Greece and Turkey but there have been reports that Greece would receive \$250,000,000.

OBVIOUS MEANING

Washington, Mar. 13. President Truman called on Americans to halt the world in the march of communism with money, materials and military skill. Not once did Truman refer to Russia by name but his meaning was obvious.

Proposing a new foreign policy, the President specifically asked Congress for \$400,000,000 to aid Greece and Turkey—hard pressed Mediterranean bulwarks against the totalitarian tide.

He said he would not hesitate to ask for additional sums if necessary "to help the free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose upon them totalitarian regimes."

Three times law-makers applauded when he served notice that the aid must be supervised, again when he lashed at the totalitarian regimes, and again when he said the alternative to direct aid "is much more serious."

Immediate reaction of the Congressional members was anxious but serious.

Senator Wherry of Nebraska, assistant Republican leader, said, the speech was "a declaration of war on totalitarianism" but added, "I don't know that there is any alternative."

Soviets Experimenting On Cosmic Death Rays

Amsterdam, Mar. 12.

The Soviet Union has cracked the secret of controlling atomic energy, manufactured its own atomic bombs and is now concentrating its research on the international race for control of an even deadlier weapon—cosmic death rays.

These allegations are contained in an article published by the "De Volkskrant," organ of the powerful Netherlands Catholic Party and ending Dutch Conservative newspapers.

An independent investigation among the best informed sources available in Europe has substantiated in most particulars this story, which also alleges, firstly, that Soviet scientists have constructed atomic bombs four times heavier than the bomb the Americans dropped at Bikini, although not necessarily any deadlier.

Secondly, through espionage, learned of the mistakes made by the Americans in their pioneering work at Oak Ridge, Tennessee State, bomb experimentation is now focused entirely on splitting the protactinium atom instead of the uranium isotope.

Thirdly, their top secret atomic energy plant is located in the Lake Balkal area of Eastern Siberia, in the midst of the central Mongolian desert.

Fourthly, thousands of German nuclear physicists and other scientists, specialists and technicians, forced as paid slave labour to serve the Kremlin, are employed on their atomic project, which is said to dwarf the American atomic plant at Oak Ridge.

Fifthly, last April 300 persons were killed at Atomgrad, closely guarded centre of research on the northern shore of Lake Balkal, when an accidental chain reaction released deadly radioactive rays, which penetrated



PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Boy Killers To Be Sent To Institution

Stafford, Staffordshire, Mar. 12.

Four boys, two aged 15 and two aged 16, were ordered at the Assizes here today to be detained "during His Majesty's pleasure" after being found guilty of what the prosecution described as the "completely cold-blooded murder" of a 21-year-old assistant master at the School for Juvenile Delinquents near here.

Earlier, the court had heard how the master went to the school bath-room and found three rifle barrels pointed at him.

There were three shots and the master fell and died half an hour later.

Originally, ten boys were charged but five of them were acquitted while no evidence was offered against the sixth, who was discharged. The prosecution alleged that the boys shot the master because he got in the way of a plot to kill the headmaster with guns from the school armoury and to get away in his car.

Passing sentence the judge said that being under 18, the boys could not have the death sentence passed on them.

Aquitania For Immigrants

London, Mar. 13.

The Australian High Commissioner's office said today that an official announcement would be made in Canberra "in a few days" on negotiations to charter the 14,780-ton liner Aquitania to carry British immigrants to the dominion.

Upwards of 200,000 Britons have registered for new homes in Australia in a special plan to go into operations on March 31, the spokesman said.

A gang of about 400 build-down workers already has made the journey.

Government Wins Confidence Vote: Churchill Hostile

London, Mar. 12.

Britain's Labour Government to-night weathered by an overwhelming margin its most severe Parliamentary attack, defeating Mr Winston Churchill's motion of no confidence 374-198.

At the end of three days' debating, the House adopted the Government's White Paper plans for dealing with Britain's direct economic crisis since the industrial revolution. The vote was taken immediately after Mr Churchill's manoeuvre had been defeated 371-204.

Voting was strictly along Party lines. Neither the Conservatives nor Labourites bolted from their leadership in any numbers.

There was a minor upset in the results of the division in that Mr Clement Davies and 12 Liberal members of the House did not vote on Mr Churchill's no confidence motion, which was an amendment to the Government motion. The Liberals had been expected to side solidly with the Tories as they did on the second division, voting with Mr Churchill's forces against the Government plans.

WHY THEY ABSTAINED
The Liberals explained privately that they abstained from voting on the Churchill motion because the Conservatives, if in power, would not adopt the measures which the Liberals believed necessary to save the country.

Mr Davies' own amendment to the Government motion, which declared Labour's failure to plan adequately for the crisis which struck in Britain's worst winter in a lifetime, was not put to the vote. Although Mr Davies tabled the motion, he failed to move it when he spoke in the debate.

It was the second time in the 20-month life of Prime Minister Attlee's Government that Labour had more than 200 votes cast against it. That opposition figure was reached also last year on the vote for the transport nationalisation bill.

Labour holds 394 seats in the House and the Conservatives 197.

CHURCHILL CASTIGATES
The double division came at the end of a day of acrimonious debate, highlighted by Mr Winston Churchill's castigation of the Government with his best invective—at the top of his wartime oratorical form.

The debate was opened on Monday afternoon by Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, who presented Government's plans in detail. He was followed by six other Cabinet Ministers in the next two days—the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Hugh Dalton, the Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Labour Minister, Mr George Isaacs, the Defence Minister, Mr A. V. Alexander, the Lord Privy Seal, Mr Arthur Greenwood, and the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee.

The burden of the opposition argument throughout was that Government actually had made no plan to meet the crisis and had none now.

In point of fact, the debate was dull. It was enlivened only by a sharp exchange between Mr Alexander and the Tory front bench last night and by Mr Churchill's fiery oratory this afternoon.

ENDS IN BEDLAM
It wound up in bedlam just before to-night's division.

Two hours of Mr Churchill's summation for Government. "There are good many people who ought to know better who go from this country to the United States and elsewhere and talk down this country."

As the Speaker called the vote, the House rocked with Conservative cries of "Rubbish" while Labourites yelled back "Tory."

Mr Winston Churchill, rising to move the vote of no confidence, accused the Labour Government of perpetrating a "crime against the British State and people" in pursuing its policies.

Mr Churchill, leading the Opposition attack on Government, unlimbered the big guns of his famous oratorical arsenal. He accused the

Labour Government of imposing the "rule of sect on the British people in their direct economic crisis." He said the problem required the strength of a united people, but instead "the Socialist Government, in its hour of unexpected triumph, imposed the rule of sect."—United Press.

WHAT CHURCHILL SAID
London, Mar. 13.

Mr Winston Churchill charged the Labour Government on Wednesday with a crime against the British State and the people and accused the Socialist leaders of placing the party interests before those of the Government.

Before they nationalised our industries they should have nationalised themselves—the former Prime Minister declared—they should have set the country before the party and shown that they were Britons first and the Socialists only second.

In his fiercest attack on the Government Churchill was leading up to a request for a vote of no confidence, which he will seek to press through the House of Commons on Wednesday night in the closing stage of a three-day debate on the Government's economic programme.

Churchill declared that the Government has "divided this nation in its hour of serious need in a different way from which it had ever been divided in the many party conflicts that I have witnessed in the past."

SHOUTS ACCUSATION
"In less than two years," he shouted, "our country has fallen from its proud and glorious position in the world to the plight in which it lies to-day."

"There was no need for a bread shortage and there was no need for the breakdown in coal," Churchill said, "these shortages were merely marginal and could have been provided against by foresight and prudence."

"The British people to-day are undernourished," the Conservative leader declared, provoking shouts of "nonsense" from the Government benches.

"Let us put up a fight for John Bull food, anyhow," Churchill pleaded, "to run him down as low as this is a scandal."

Turning to the coal shortage he declared: "With 5,000,000 tons of coal more, we would have come through this winter without a breakdown."

He accused the Minister of Fuel and Power, Mr Emmanuel Shinwell, of "total lack of foresight" which "has robbed him of the credence and confidence of the public."—Associated Press.

JINNAH INSISTS ON PAKISTAN

Bombay, Mar. 12.

Mohamed Ali Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, told a gathering of Moslem journalists here to-night that there was no honourable solution for India's Moslems except Pakistan.

"We have got to stand on our own legs. Our ideology, our goal and our basic principles and programme are not only different from Hindu organisations but are in conflict," he declared.

He called upon Moslems in all walks of life to organise themselves.

Gloomy Prediction

London, Mar. 12.

Some observers here are predicting that Britain will be short of electric power for another three to five years.

—Associated Press.

England's Rivers Dangerously Rising

London, Mar. 12.

Rivers are rising fast and thousands of acres of low lying land are already deep in flood water after the warm weather wave had melted rapidly the snow accumulated during the recent "ice age".

The River Medway in Kent and the Avon in Wiltshire have reached their highest levels in 20 years and are still rising. After the Avon burst down from the Cotswold hills and smaller streams reaches the lower lying land.

warned householders to take their furniture to upstairs rooms. Sandbags and piles of clay have been dumped in the main street ready to block up houses and shops if the water rises further.

Towns in the Thames valley are prepared for flooding and the river is already up to road level for many miles.

At Windsor, the Thames is already three feet above normal and is expected to rise higher still when the huge volume of water sweeping down from the Cotswold hills and smaller streams reaches the lower lying land.

The Air Ministry forecast to-day further slight falls of snow in England.

—Reuter.

DANUBE RECEDING

Bratislava, Mar. 12.

Army planes bombed the ice-jam at a bridge for seven hours today as the Danube slowly receded 14 centimetres to six metres above normal.

Port installations were all under water but experts believe the danger has passed, unless the three-kilometre stretch of ice above Bratislava should break up unexpectedly.

—United Press.

Imperial Preference "Death Sentence"

Canberra, Mar. 12. Sir Earle Page, leader of the Country Party opposition in the Australian House of Representatives, today accused the United States of inducing Australia and other nations to pass the death sentence on Empire Preference as a result of which the Empire was being "bluffed out of existence."

He also stated that strong action on trade policy might prove the determining factor whether India remained in the Empire or at least in its trade system.

Moving an adjournment of the House to discuss Empire Preference, he said: "The British Empire, great agent for Pax Britannica, which has kept the world in balance for 100 years, is being bluffed out of existence by subtle propaganda, to which the Australian Government has succumbed."

"America is now in the position of a successful buccaner, after one hundred years of inactivity now wishes to consolidate her gains, to become thoroughly respectable and be satisfied with half gains."

"She is willing, for a consideration, to take off 50 per cent of her tariff on certain items, knowing that the hurdle is still too high to jump. In return, Australia and other nations are being induced to pass the death sentence on Empire Preference."

MINISTER'S DENIAL
The Australian Minister for Reconstruction, Mr John J. Dedman, denying emphatically that the Australian Government was already committed to abandon Empire Preference, said that the delegation attending the trade talks which opened in London yesterday, and for the meeting in Geneva next month, had been instructed that the Government was not prepared to give away any preference at all unless it could get something which would be more advantageous.

Mr Joseph Chifley, Prime Minister, said that Empire Preference was vital for certain Australian industries. Amongst some of the Dominions, including Canada and the United Kingdom herself, there was a feeling that exclusive preference could not be maintained.

Australia and New Zealand alone could not insist that preference be continued.

THE BRITISH VIEW
"As far as I can see," he said, "the British view is that there must be some modification if we are to join the World Trade Organisation."

"It is essential for Britain to import largely from the dollar area. The United Kingdom found that she could not export to the United States sufficient to meet commitments under the loan agreement."

"So far there is no indication when the position might be rectified. There is no use in us engaging in a fury of words about the rate of Empire Preference. The fact is that America to-day is the dominating economic nation of the world. It is essential for future peace that Britain and America work in the closest co-operation with the utmost sympathy for one another."—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Is The Return Worth While?

THE last word about tax legislation for Hongkong has still to be written; when it is, it will probably be a noun or an adjective representing the despairing cry of a community whipped into submission by the bulldozing ruthlessness of an unrelenting administration. Our comments to date have been very largely influenced by that appreciation. Government has made up its mind that direct taxation is to be an integral feature of the colony's future finances. Doubt about this turns into conviction when a study is made of the technique adopted. Firstly, a Taxation Committee is set up for the express purpose of advising on the best methods of collecting additional annual revenue; the committee recommends direct taxation; acting solely on that recommendation (and without calling for any other opinion) Government secretly establishes special machinery for enforcing tax legislation, prepares a draft bill, and then blandly offers it to the public as though it were a surprise packet out of a lucky dip. You take it, or leave it, and you can't exchange the gift for something else you would prefer. This is the rub. It gives the feeling, as one correspondent expressed it, though in a slightly different form, that it is no good kicking because no notice is taken. On an issue such as taxation, the community feels defeated before it has even had a chance to express its opinion.

We have challenged proposed direct taxation on the sheer merits of the draft bill as presented. We are quite willing to extend the challenge to the point of declaring that the proposals should be abandoned. We subscribe to the general objections because, despite the scoffing of correspondents who admit they are only temporary residents with no historical background of Hongkong, we believe most of the objections are tenable; have been proved so. There is another consideration. So far no official hint has been given as to what revenue Government hopes to draw from direct taxation in a full financial year. But one estimate, from a very reliable source, puts it at not more than \$20,000,000, more possibly \$10,000,000. Either figure represents a comparatively paltry return. We suggest the same revenue could be obtained by means other than the proposed inequitable direct taxation.

No Change In Cyprus Status

London, Mar. 12. The Secretary for Colonies, Mr Creech-Jones, was cheered when he told the House of Commons today that no change in the status of Cyprus was contemplated by the British Government.

He had reminded the delegation from Cyprus of this decision. In the interview he had accorded to the delegation which presented a memorandum on the subject of a union of Cyprus with Greece, he alluded further to the economic and social development programme involving substantial assistance from United Kingdom funds and plans for the introduction of a more liberal constitution.

He expressed the hope of the British Government that the people of Cyprus would play their part in these beneficial developments," he said.—Reuter.

MOLOTOV PIPES DOWN

Request By Bevin Conceded

Moscow, Mar. 13. Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, surprisingly conciliatory, made concessions in the face of a determined attack by British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin just as the news of President Truman's speech reached here.

It is not believed that the softening of Molotov's position was the result of the outspoken United States position.

Molotov agreed to give the Foreign Ministers' council data on the number of German prisoners held in Russia, and conceded that Russia had been tardy in outcrying the Potsdam commitment to destroy certain German naval vessels registered to them for that purpose.

Mr Bevin had charged that Russia had failed to live up to her agreements in destroying ships and to treat Germany as an economic unit. He also demanded Russia to account for what she said when she moved out of eastern Germany.

United States Secretary of State George Marshall supported the British position during the long exchange.

French Foreign Minister Bidault, chairman of the day, stayed largely out of the discussions.—Associated Press.

SOVIET CANCER DISCOVERY

Moscow, Mar. 12.

Izvestia to-day reported that Marshal Stalin had called on two Soviet scientists, Klueva and Roslin, to abandon all routine projects and devote themselves entirely to cancer research.

The newspaper added that the two scientists had discovered a new substance "deadly to cancer growth and yet entirely harmless to the patient."—Reuter.

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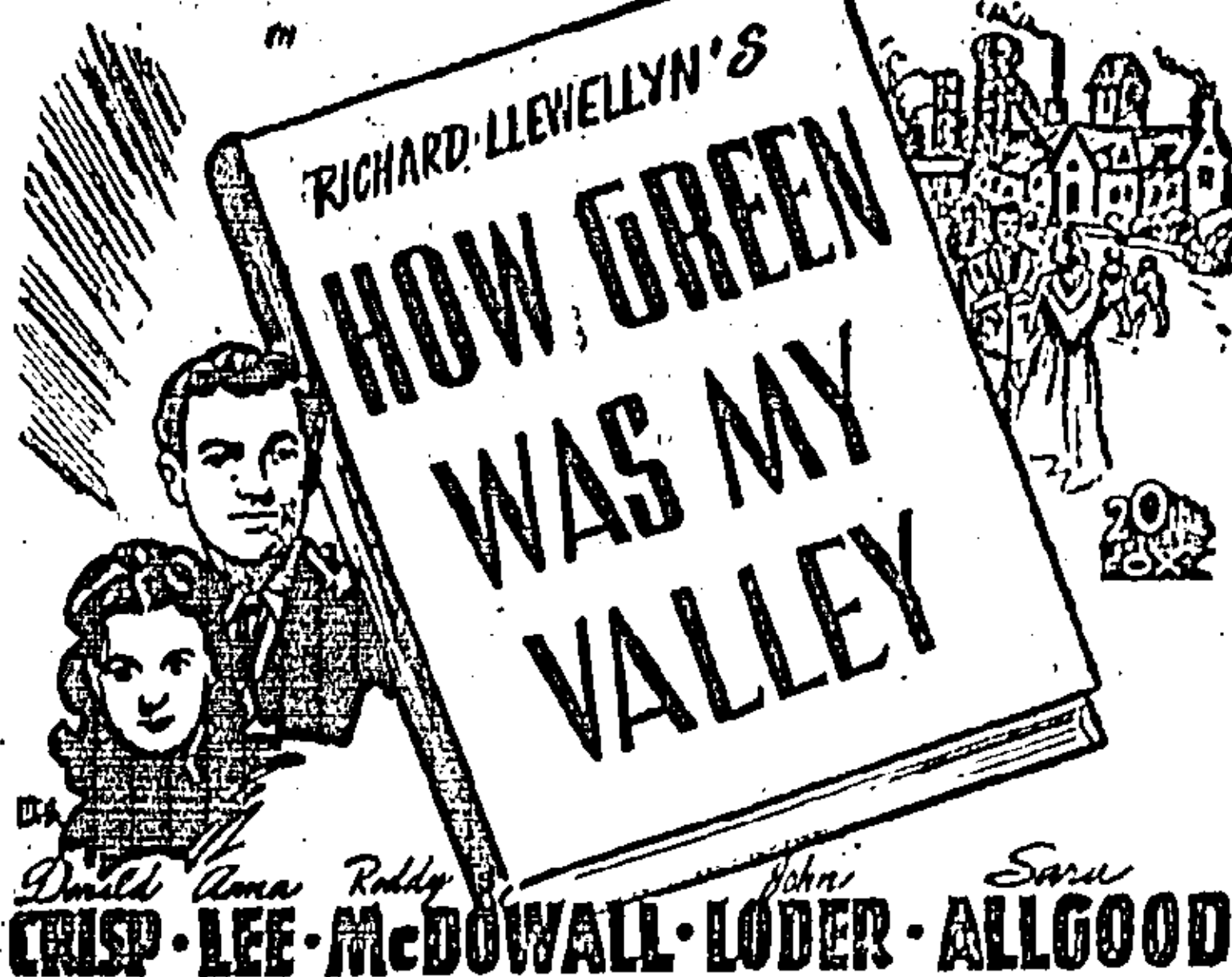
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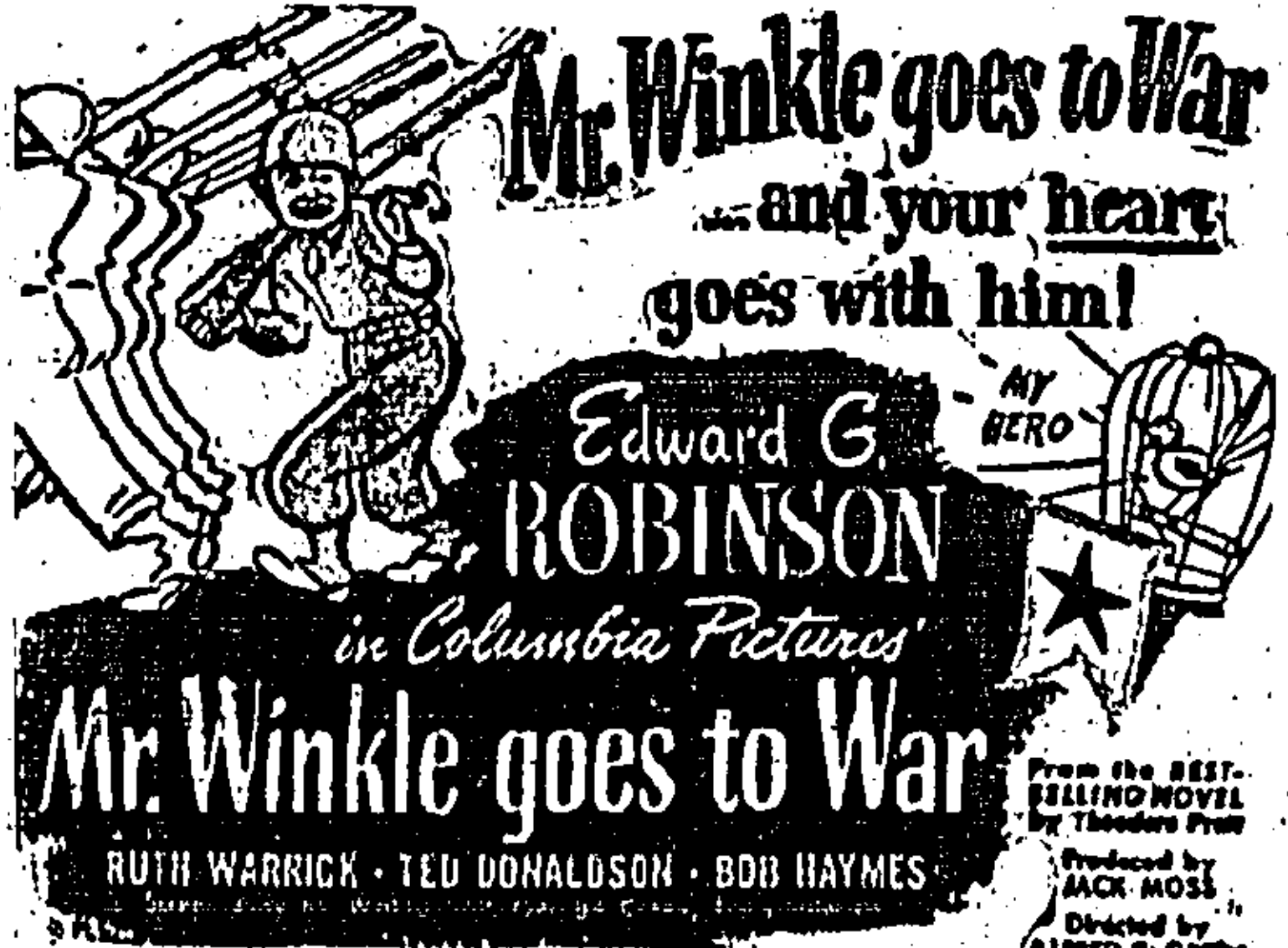
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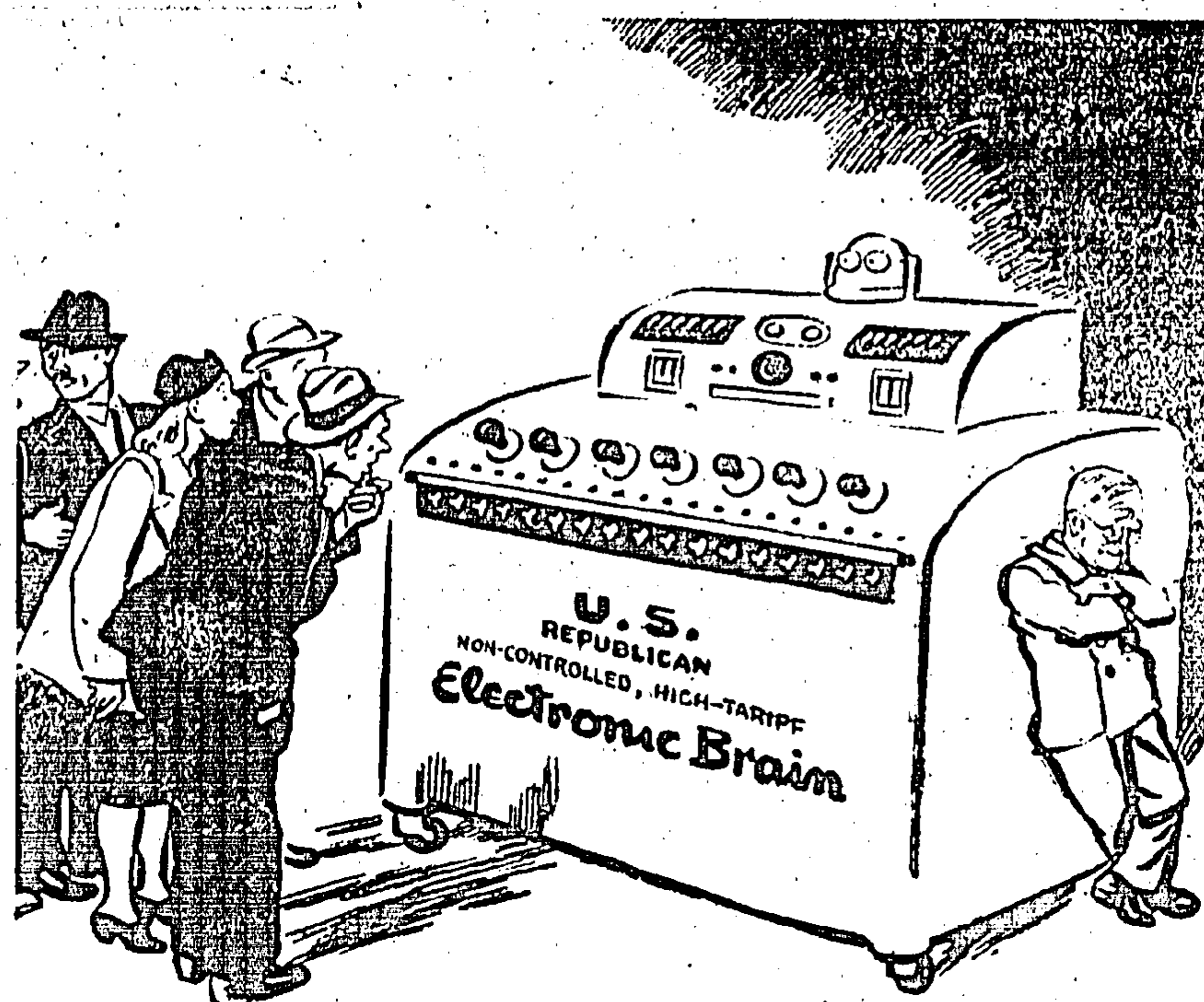
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IN TECHNICOLOR



"Hope its answers are better than they were in 1929"

WERE THEY SET FREE FROM SLAVERY FOR THIS?

MONTEGO BAY (Jamaica).
It was dark. The moon was rising behind the palm trees. The sound of the ocean lapped snugly against the beach. The outline of the bay and the rugged mountainous surroundings showed proudly and plainly against the deep blue of the night sky.

The new 1946 model Chrysler in which I was driving came to a halt in front of a large building. A two-storeyed white and green house situated on a curve of the harbour.

I climbed the steps on to a porch and turned into a room where a light was shining. Near to me, lying on an iron bedstead, a body moved. The outline of a second figure on the same bed stirred also. Then I saw two feet; they separated the heads of the other two people. Three grown men sharing a single bed.

Round this room were 22 beds. Fifty-three people were occupying them. Those 53 human beings were all sick. They were patients in a Government hospital in Jamaica.

Few groans or moans came from these men. It was 10 o'clock at night and they were sleeping. Sleeping as best they knew how. Curled round each other, as if even in sleep they were conscious that one move would pitch their companion or companions on to the concrete floor.

Only the critically sick or dying had a couch to themselves.

Like Corpses

FROM the end of the men's ward was climbed an outside staircase to the floor above. As I mounted that stairway I could see the moon shining into the room we had just left. The white sheet-draped figures looked like corpses awaiting burial. So sharp, so still, and so grim was their outline.

It was such irony that this beautiful Jamaican moon, that reflected like liquid gold across the smooth still water of the bay, should come to rest on a sight so terrible as the overcrowded ward of sick human beings.

On the second floor we reached the children's ward. Little iron cots were crammed close together. Inside the harsh black bars, two, three, even four black picninnies lay huddled. They lay as puppies do, pushing against one another in their sleep. Seeking comfort and sympathy.

Audible whimpers and small cries of pain came from different corners. I have never seen a more pitiful sight. And the children who clustered together in those cots did not even suffer a similar illness.

Dramatic, moving and significant is this document—an exclusive report from a British Colonial hospital.

by

PAMELA CHURCHILL

The passageways that separated ward from ward were also filled with patients. They lay on stretcher couches; there were not enough bedsteads to go round.

Their Faith

THE surgical wards were the least crowded. In one I counted as many as six beds that had only one occupant—patients that had been operated on that day.

The women's wards were the same as the men's—two and sometimes three to a bed; women, young and old, the sick and the very sick.

The few who stirred when the light went on looked curiously at me. Their expressions, haggard and patient, made me realise that they were grateful to be in the hospital at all. They had faith that they were being cured even though they must sleep their way back to health heaped together in the heat of a bug-infested Caribbean night.

In one of the male wards the overcrowding was so dense that two iron park benches, the kind that curl, had been put together. A blanket was thrown over them, for there was not an extra mattress. On this bed of varying levels were stretched three young men. In the corner on a wooden box a moaning patient sat; no sleeping place had yet been found for him.

Mothers' Ward

ONE of the smallest rooms was the maternity ward. It has no annex or labour room attached. The waiting women watch the suffering of their neighbours.

In one bed were two women. Between them lay a few-hours-old babe; by the morning there might be another.

In a corner was a contented young mother with her new child. She smiled proudly at her son, while the other inmate of the bed sat on the end and rocked herself slowly to and fro.

I clambered down the iron staircase to the ground floor. It was difficult to realise that what I had seen was true.

By day when I had visited the hospital it had not seemed so terrible. For by day the patients that can leave their communal beds and sit on the balcony benches. But even then it is a grim and sordid sight.

No flowers or personal possessions decorate the patients' wards. No toys or playthings deck the children's quarters. The children when they leave their cots, sit dejectedly beneath them on the concrete floor.

The St James's Hospital, Montego Bay, was built in 1929. The full horror of this hospital is told in a very few words. IT WAS BUILT FOR 72 BEDS AND NOW HOUSES MORE THAN 200 PATIENTS.

The staff are adequate in number. Two doctors, a matron, 27 nurses and 11 probationers. The medical supplies are good and the theatre is a model of its size. The food is planned on the modern diet system. Extra food is allowed to be brought in from outside, but it is often eaten by the patients before the nurse has had a chance to decide whether it is the right kind or quantity.

This happens because though there are certain visiting hours, the rule is not kept: relations and friends wander back and forth by day and by night.

Discipline is an unknown word. Inmates from the men's ward wander in with the women patients and sit on their beds.

From the overcrowding comes the disorder and the appalling atmosphere that pervades the building. The patients, the visitors, the children, all intermingle.

It is, in truth, a sad and bad example of the provision that is made for the Jamaican people. How can those people who were freed from slavery little over 100 years ago, be educated to cleanliness and decency when such a low standard is set for them in their hospital?

And this hospital is situated on one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Rich, elegant tourists pass it every day on their way to the beach, a beach where they lie in charming ease, gazing at the beauty of Montego Bay.

They do not know that close by, in the building which from the outside is a fitting adornment to the landscape, many sick people must share a bed.

France Flatters Her Miners

By MAURICE EDELMAN, M.P.

PIERRE BOURDILLON is one of the miners of the Pas de Calais, who have raised total coal production from the weekly rate of 915,000 tons in 1938 to 1,070,000 tons in February 1947.

He is a contented man. He lives in a newly built, temporary, wooden house, erected under the general plan of the Ministry of Reconstruction.

Although there were more than a million houses made uninhabitable in the North of France during the war, and there is a great lack of accommodation, Bourdillon was given priority for a house—because he is a miner.

Each morning he cycles to work on a bicycle provided with new tyres. Throughout France there is a critical shortage of rubber, but Bourdillon has priority for tyres—because he is a miner.

During his seven-hour shift at the coal face he eats a "snack" of meat sandwiches, a special ration—because he is a miner.

When the shift is over he is not worried by the cigarette famine which his cousin, an engineer in Belleville, Paris, is always grumbling about. He has a ration of as many as 20 cigarettes a day, compared with about six a day for the general population—because he is a miner. When he changes his clothes at the pit-head baths he is able to wear a new suit, bought with the extra clothing points which are allotted to miners. The shoes he wears were awarded to him as a production bonus. He takes home as much as three litres (6½ pints) of wine a week—the average ration is four a month. And he sits down to a meal with his family in which extra meat and bread bring his calory total to 4,000 a day.

Encouragement

Bourdillon was not always such an enthusiastic worker. During the occupation he helped, in 1943, to reduce the weekly overall average to barely 817,000 tons a week.

When France was liberated, it took him some time to get into his stride again. Absenteeism was often as much as 22 per cent.

But there were two circumstances which encouraged them all to reduce their absenteeism to something like 10 per cent.

The first was the system of priorities for miners, introduced by the Government; the second was the encouragement of miners' trade union. The first circumstance meant that the more he worked—payment is by results, with special bonuses—not only did he get more paper money, but he was also able to buy more real goods.

The second circumstance meant that his union did everything in its power to make him feel that he was a comrade of industry, a leader in the task of national reconstruction. Bourdillon's union added to material incentives a patriotic incentive.

The Communists who hold leading positions in the union disliked the idea of a large influx of Poles, Germans, and anti-Russian Balts into their key industrial areas. But they recognised that without them France would not reach her consumer target of 75,000,000 tons; and without coal France can never recover her industrial eminence, but must dwindle into a country of general penury.

Bourdillon welcomed the fact that of the 218,163 underground miners in February, as many as 38,767 were prisoners of war. "Is it morally worse," asks the logical Bourdillon, "to persuade P.O.W.s to work in mines than in fields?"

Now that the Americans want the return of the German P.O.W.s whom they lent to the French, the manpower situation of the coalmines is threatened, particularly as already many voluntary Polish miners have gone, or are going home.

The French Government is hoping to fill the threatened gap by seeking to make contracts with former German P.O.W.s to stay as voluntary workmen.

The miners' union is doubtful about the wisdom of this, but acquiesces. Coal at all costs is the demand. Coal from the French mines, coal from America, coal from the Saar and Ruhr—and if possible, coal from Britain, as it was in 1938 when we sent France more than 6,000,000 tons.

Incentives

If we could export another 6,000,000 tons of coal to France we would make an alliance with her more binding than any treaty.

If we could produce enough coal to export 30,000,000 tons of coal a year, we could reassert Britain's leadership in Europe and raise our standard of life by the imports which the coal would attract.

If we could raise our present coal output over our 1938 output by the same amount as the French have raised their coal output we would get those 30,000,000 tons.

Is Jack Jones of South Wales then, a worse miner than Pierre Bourdillon of the Pas de Calais? Of course not. But Jack Jones needs help and encouragement.

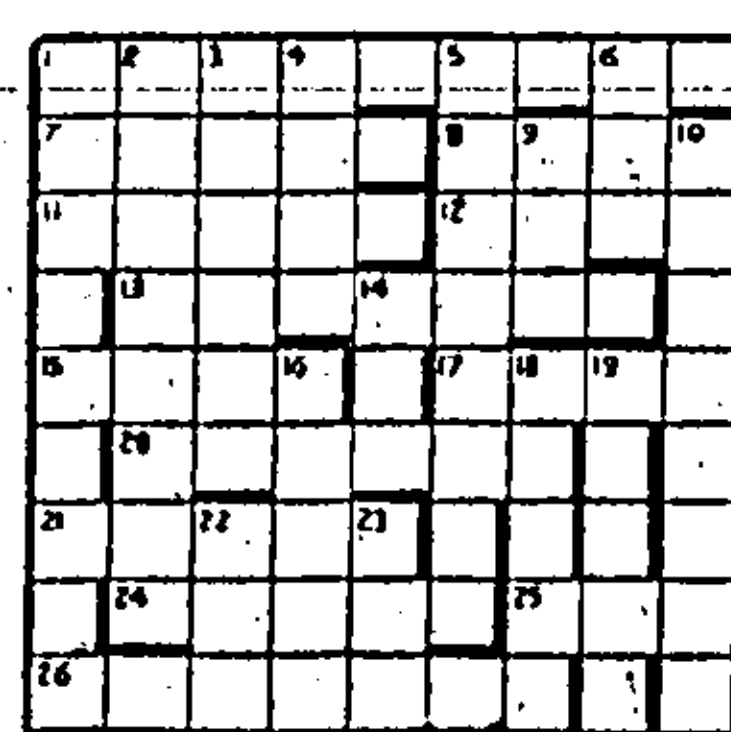
His work must be considered Priority Number One for the nation, as aircraft were. Priority Number One in the war.

He must receive benefits and incentives in the form of special allocations of goods and services.

This union must welcome foreign workers under contracts in which the unions participate, to lend him a hand, and raise the labour force by 50,000 young men; and the National Coal Board must seek to engage new labour under contract for fixed periods.

Once coal mining is seen to be both a patriotic and a rewarding occupation, the industry will get the men it needs, and the country will get its coal.

CROSSWORD



Across
1. Commonly called "the works." (5)
7. He's not at home. (5)
8. In all momentous happenings.
11. Pertaining to reins. (5)
12. Carry. (4)
13. Sounds a sure thing if I make known. (7)
14. Initially a radio introduction. (4)

Down
2. Usually they cause a draught, but their activities may lighten. (4)
3. Thus sped the slither. (5)
4. Outlets. (5)
5. Part this to exhibit. (6)
6. See 1 Down.
9. 1 and 20. Under document? (4, 2)
10. Sort of hare to be panned. (5)
11. Traps? (5)
12. Carry. (4)
13. Sounds a sure thing if I make known. (7)
14. Initially a radio introduction. (4)
15. The nerve part of enticement. (5)
16. A plus for fire letter name. (4)
17. Love seems to be a bother to the sapper. (5)
18. The cure for the paragon. (5)
19. The song gave this number of girls at a village school. (5)

Solution of yesterday's puzzle—Across: (1) Works, (2) Hare, (3) Slither, (4) Outlets, (5) Carry, (6) Exhibit, (7) Sure, (8) Momentous, (9) Document, (10) Panned, (11) Traps, (12) Carry, (13) Sure, (14) Introduction, (15) Nerve, (16) Plus, (17) Sapper, (18) Cure, (19) Number.

BY THE WAY by Basil Chamber

THE news that there will be an international Eisteddfod this year in Wales worries me. Imagine the effect of a chic French choir on those Druids. They will begin to add frills and ribbons and things to their austere nightshirts, and to make rhetorical gestures at the harp. Llangollen's and Abernanner's boarding houses and hotels will become "Hotel de Llangollen et de l'Univers," "Pension Toilette," "Villa Colliquet," "Chez Didi," and so on.

The albino bears of Lapland. THE report that albino bears have appeared in North West Lapland is interesting, but not as surprising as some people seem to think.

The Sorokkum Lapps call any bear that is not brown an albino, and they have a superstition that the appearance of three albino bears in any locality means that the reindeer such dangers are over. But one will die. I once argued about this with a Lapp. I said, "You see, your reindeer are still alive." "Yes," he said, "but they will die later." "Of course they will; they have to die some time," I said. "They have to die, as you say," replied the Lapp, "and when they die it will be because of these albino bears."

Lurking danger. THE other day a woman of 47 complained that she felt depressed

because her 70-year-old mother threw her over a garden wall. Most of the women I know, when their mothers have reached that age, relax their vigilance, imagining that all such dangers are over. But one society woman I know was knocked with a Lapp. I said, "You see, your reindeer are still alive." "Yes," he said, "but they will die later." "Of course they will; they have to die some time," I said. "They have to die, as you say," replied the Lapp, "and when they die it will be because of these albino bears."

Reprieve. I CAN imagine the happy smile on the face of Mr. Arthur Machen when he reads that there is to be no power station in the lovely Vale of Usk. And so say all of Usk.

By Ernie Bushmiller

NANCY Warmest Corner in Town



When You Feel Tired and Restless

take
Elliott's Nerve
and
Brain Tonic

On Sale at All Dispensaries

Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day
By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Two can diet as well as One, if you use common sense!

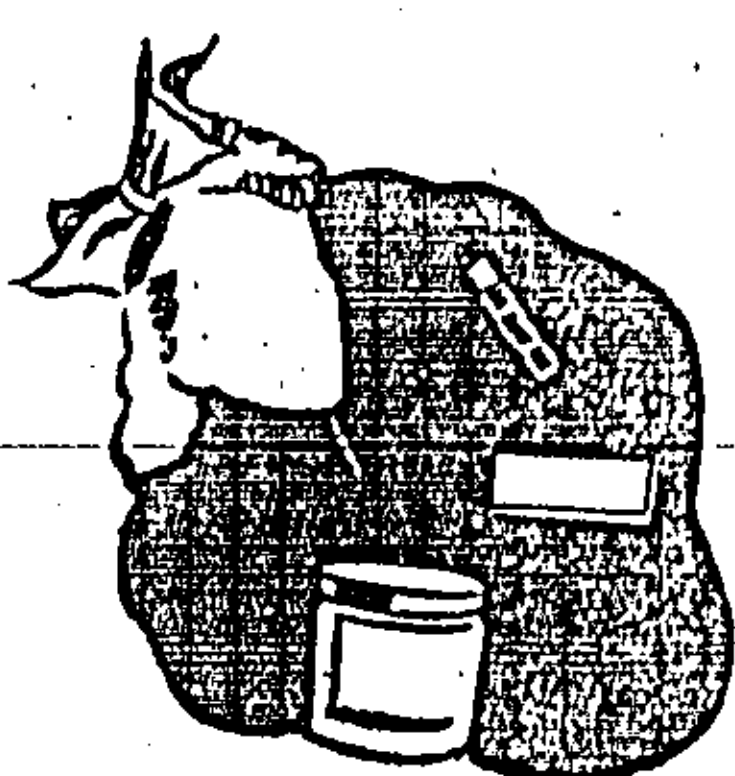
COMMON SENSE REDUCING

It's a fallacy to think that certain foods must be avoided in reducing diets because they are fattening. No food, in itself, is fattening. It is the amount eaten that adds the pounds. If you are normal and eat more than you need for energy, the surplus is stored up as fatty tissue. This adds to your weight. But if you eat less than you need for energy, the body then burns up its stored fatty tissue—and your excess weight, which will make you smile at your reflection in the mirror!

It is wrong, also, to think that you can safely eliminate the so-called "fattening" foods—sweets, bread, butter and potatoes. Many of these are important protective foods, rich in minerals and vitamins, without which you look haggard and feel worse.

Although white sugar supplies only calories and not minerals and vitamins, another sweet, molasses, is one of the richest sources of iron, the vital mineral. The only richer source of iron is beef liver. Too many people do not get enough iron from their regular meals and it is easy to develop iron deficiency from reducing diets. So, instead of cutting out all sweets, you can include molasses in cookies stewed and baked fruits in your daily meals.

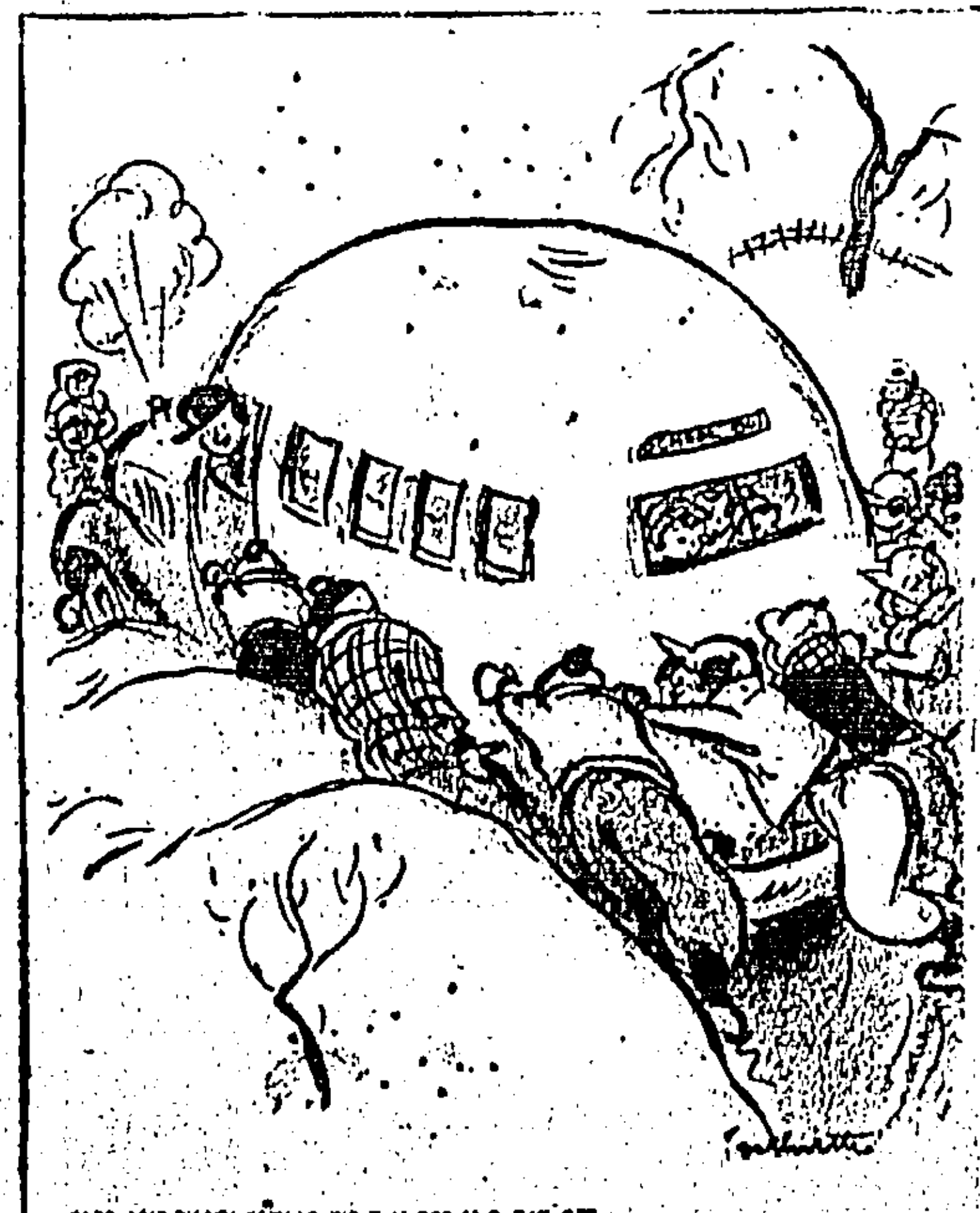
Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



Clean up your beauty aids! Wash bottles and cream jars, wash your powder puffs. Arrange lipstick, rouge, eyeshadows according to matching shades. Then, when you've got "only a Minute", you can find just the things you want. And, remember—clean tools do a clean job!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Wait till the next time Pop tells me that one about how he walked three miles to school!"

Nature And Politics Baulk Efforts To Tame China's Yellow River

Third of a series of four articles
By JOHN RODERICK
Associated Press Staff Correspondent

Failure to complete the Yellow River Project on schedule, nine months ago, is a striking example not so much of technical deficiency as it is of man's complex ties with nature.

In the beginning, UNRRA's engineers believed the great Chinese river could be thrust back into the old channel from which it issued in 1938 simply by sealing the mile-wide breach Chinese engineers had made in the dyke. They were technically right.

As a matter of record, the work of plugging up this sluiceway proceeded on schedule until late spring, last year. Until that time it seemed that the river, which had been released in wartime to destroy the Japanese, would be serving peacetime China again in its old channel some time in 1946.

From an engineering standpoint it could have been done. But at the crucial moment it was discovered that thousands of Chinese on the old bed were uncared for. It was at this point that the human element entered into the forward progress of the project which UNRRA had billed as its biggest.

The Communists raised the issue of the old settlers. To understand their position it is necessary to know something of the old river bed.

In 1938, the Yellow River, flowing in its northward path to the sea, was flanked by two sets of dykes. One pair, called the Golden Dykes, were from 60 to 90 Chinese li, that is 20 to 30 miles, apart. These mud-made barriers were to enable the overflow from the People's Dykes, which hemmed in the river at a distance of one to five miles from each other.

Landmarks Of Meanderings

Since 1938, these dykes have been landmarks outlining the river's old meanderings. During the war the Japanese built fortresses on them. The adjacent farmers planted food on them and on the nearby river banks. In time, rivers moved and the river beds, built homes and tilled the rich land. Erosion and the removal of stones for building weakened and destroyed large sections of the new levees dykes.

An UNRRA commission has ascertained that nearly 400,000 people are settled between the dykes. At the estuary of the river, which formerly was under water, another 100,000 are living.

Under an original plan, the Communists urged and UNRRA and CNRRA agreed, that the old dykes first be repaired and the old channel dredged before turning the water into it. A dispute arose when the Communists later claimed the government had refused to give approval to agreed compensation for these settlers.

Closure Postponed

The agreement had further stipulated a two-thirds closure of the breach by July 15, 1946, a date which chief engineer C. J. Todd appeared ready to fulfill by July 1st.

The Communists originally were under the impression that C.N.\$100,000 per person would be allotted to each settler, a sum which the nationalist Yellow River Conservancy Commission judged reasonable. They insisted on payment at once.

UNRRA, to avert hardship, recommended postponement of the gap closure until December to permit the settlers to remove in time but was told by Dr. T. F. Tsiang, then head of CNRRA, he had no power to order the postponement.

Floods Arrive

Work proceeded after Todd had personally appealed to T. V. Soong, then Premier, for an order prohibiting any interference in the closure. This time, however, nature thwarted Todd's plans. Racing against time, he began pouring the rock into the wooden trestle dam which was to finally seal the gap. At the strongest point in the river, where the water was deepest, he had driven 30-foot piles. At the east bank, where there was hardly a trickle he had driven 40-foot piles.

By a quirk, the floods arrived five days early. The channel moved suddenly to the east bank, washing out 500 feet of the 1,000-foot trestle, and postponing until winter the opportunity to divert the river completely.

At this stage, UNRRA submitted a plan which eliminated the idea of a per capita payment to the river bed settlers, and called for an Executive Yuan appropriation of 30 billion Chinese dollars for the establishment of about 10 industries in the area. All able-bodied adults to be removed would be absorbed in these industries and the products they turned out might meet the needs of some 22 million people.

Remained "Static"

The Executive Yuan refused at first to consider the proposal, and it remained, for many months, in the words of UNRRA, "static." The Yuan's refusal was interesting, since the expenditure did not mean it would actually have to appropriate these funds. The major part of the cost would be met from machinery, tools and equipment contributed by UNRRA.

A maximum of five to seven billion dollars would be needed for the purchase of raw material in China, for wages and building of freight trucks, making spindles, looms and ox carts for an area which since 1938 has been shorn completely of all manufacture.

(To be Concluded To-morrow)

LONDON LETTER

By JOHN SHIPTON

"£100 fine if you switch on!" That was the startling banner line in one of the daily papers at the height of the fuel crisis as Londoners sat down to their austere breakfasts. I have not yet heard of a prosecution, and to my mind the threat was hardly necessary.

Once the people of Britain had been told of the seriousness of the fuel position they resigned themselves to the inevitable, and after a talk with people in all walks of life I was convinced that there was a general feeling of letting down the old country if one used the light or heat for domestic purposes during prohibited hours.

Shortly after the cuts were first announced, with thousands forced out of work, there was a widespread move for improvisation. Perhaps the best known was the use of petrol engines brought into use to produce power, and there were many ingenious devices, from a gigantic Metropolitan Vickers emergency plant to the driving shaft of a motor car to drive the hare at a greyhound track.

Not For Dog Tracks

But the Ministry of Fuel and Power would not tolerate the latter. Snappily came the order—no "fuel of any description" to be used for greyhound racing. And that was that. Perhaps the Ministry had in mind the old slogan: "The Devil finds work for idle hands to do" and they weren't going to have people spending their unemployment pay on the dog tracks.

The pools, too, were drastically affected, not only by the fuel cut but because of the postponement of matches earlier, and at the time of writing a general meeting of the principal pools promoters has been convened to decide future policy.

Apart from the blows to sport fans, the gravity of the situation was brought home to Londoners by an almost complete black-out in the streets, and more than once I heard the remark: "You expect to hear the guns any minute."

Brewers warned that the fuel cuts would mean no bottled beer when present stocks are exhausted; cigarettes, sweets, and biscuits were scarce, and the potato famine was made worse because farmers feared frost when their clamps were opened.

No Coalition

Some people thought the crisis would force the Government to accept a coalition, but Prime Minister Attlee put a stop to this talk by a forthright declaration to Government critics that "talk about coalition is complete and utter nonsense," and announced the Labour Party was going ahead with its full programme.

"If anybody wants to come into a coalition," he added vehemently in a Hanley speech, "they will have to carry out a mandate of Socialist policy."

Mr. Attlee, defending Mr. Shinwell, declared there had been some very untidy attacks on the Fuel Minister and was cheered when he said that the Minister had done great work in the last 18 months.

Staple Inn

The other day I went to look at Staple Inn, which is one of the most charming retreats in the whole of London. Just off Gray's Inn Road, it is a thoroughfare adjacent to the Prudential Assurance Company, and almost next door is the famous Gamages store. Staple Inn is one of the English Inns of Court, to which lawyers were attached.

Actually it is almost opposite the Prudential and at the extreme south-east end of Gray's Inn Road. You may miss it unless you know your way about London. Pass under an archway and suddenly you are away from the roar of the traffic and in quiet world of high-gabled houses and courts of cobbled stones. There is a pleasant little garden and a pool with a small fountain, inhabited at one time by two carp. I have heard people tell all sorts of stories about the age of these fish and how they came there. The two fish had pet names, and lived about five years in this retreat, until, so the story goes, one jumped out and the other is said to have died soon afterwards of a broken heart.



According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1947, by Ely Culbertson)

The defensive play made by East in today's deal was remarkable almost to the point of second-sightedness.

South, dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 10
♥ J 7 5 3
♦ J 9 6 4
♠ A K

EAST
♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ A K 10 6
♦ K 10
♣ Q 9 6

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9 5
♥ 9 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 8 5 2

The bidding:
South: 1♣, 2♣, 3♣, 4♣, 5♣, 6♣, 7♣, 8♣, 9♣, 10♣, 11♣, 12♣, 13♣, 14♣, 15♣, 16♣, 17♣, 18♣, 19♣, 20♣, 21♣, 22♣, 23♣, 24♣, 25♣, 26♣, 27♣, 28♣, 29♣, 30♣, 31♣, 32♣, 33♣, 34♣, 35♣, 36♣, 37♣, 38♣, 39♣, 40♣, 41♣, 42♣, 43♣, 44♣, 45♣, 46♣, 47♣, 48♣, 49♣, 50♣, 51♣, 52♣, 53♣, 54♣, 55♣, 56♣, 57♣, 58♣, 59♣, 60♣, 61♣, 62♣, 63♣, 64♣, 65♣, 66♣, 67♣, 68♣, 69♣, 70♣, 71♣, 72♣, 73♣, 74♣, 75♣, 76♣, 77♣, 78♣, 79♣, 80♣, 81♣, 82♣, 83♣, 84♣, 85♣, 86♣, 87♣, 88♣, 89♣, 90♣, 91♣, 92♣, 93♣, 94♣, 95♣, 96♣, 97♣, 98♣, 99♣, 100♣, 101♣, 102♣, 103♣, 104♣, 105♣, 106♣, 107♣, 108♣, 109♣, 110♣, 111♣, 112♣, 113♣, 114♣, 115♣, 116♣, 117♣, 118♣, 119♣, 120♣, 121♣, 122♣, 123♣, 124♣, 125♣, 126♣, 127♣, 128♣, 129♣, 130♣, 131♣, 132♣, 133♣, 134♣, 135♣, 136♣, 137♣, 138♣, 139♣, 140♣, 141♣, 142♣, 143♣, 144♣, 145♣, 146♣, 147♣, 148♣, 149♣, 150♣, 151♣, 152♣, 153♣, 154♣, 155♣, 156♣, 157♣, 158♣, 159♣, 160♣, 161♣, 162♣, 163♣, 164♣, 165♣, 166♣, 167♣, 168♣, 169♣, 170♣, 171♣, 172♣, 173♣, 174♣, 175♣, 176♣, 177♣, 178♣, 179♣, 180♣, 181♣, 182♣, 183♣, 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Dutch Dakota Missing

Batavia, Mar. 12.
A Dutch Dakota, carrying 24 passengers and a crew of two, was to-day reported missing on a flight from Batavia to Bandoeng.
The aircraft, which belongs to the Netherlands Indies Air Force, had sufficient fuel for four hours in the air. The flight from Batavia to Bandoeng lasts only half an hour.
Extensive air searches are being carried out on the assumption that the plane made a forced landing.—Reuter.

Paraguay Forces Rebel

Buenos Aires, Mar. 12.
Despatches filtering to-day through rigid censorship at Asuncion, capital of Paraguay, suggest that part of the country is now under the control of the military forces which rebelled in Concepcion Province, northeastern Paraguay.

The Paraguay Government announcement that the northern part of the country has been declared a war zone is taken here as corroborating this belief.—Reuter.

Bombers Sent Aloft

Asuncion, Paraguay, Mar. 12.
An official announcement to-day said a bombing squadron went into action against the army division at Concepcion which rebelled and, according to the national radio, touched off civil war.

Bombers of the Paraguayan Army carried out their first attack on the First Infantry Division, according to official sources.—United Press.

Petition To President

Montevideo, Mar. 12.
After an urgent meeting, the Chamber of Deputies approved a message of the Paraguayan Government petitioning President Morinigo not to bomb "open cities" occupied by the revolutionaries.—United Press.

U.S. TOURIST SPENDING

American tourists spent \$430,000,000 last year in foreign countries, not counting ship and plane fares to get there, the United States Commerce Department estimated.
The amount is nearly double the total of the \$218,000,000 foreign tourists spent last year in the United States, nearly half of which were Canadian.

The American tourist spending is about \$110,000,000 more than the previous year.—Associated Press.

NAVAL LAUNCH FATALITY

Jerusalem, Mar. 12.
One British naval officer and two naval ratings lost their lives when a naval launch from a British destroyer capsized while they were trying to board an illegal Jewish immigrant ship, according to unconfirmed reports here to-night.—Reuter.

WORLD RECORD FLIGHT

Washington, Mar. 12.
The Army Air Force announced to-day the newest six-engine XB-36 super-bomber set a world record by lifting 278,000 pounds off the ground at Fort Worth, Texas, concluding 13 successful test flights.

At the same time, AAF announced the successful conversion of the B-29, which scoured Japan, into B-29 "stratos-freighter" capable of carrying a full cargo 4,000 miles at 8 m.p.h.—United Press.

MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE BOUT

Vince Hawkins, the British middleweight champion, is to fight Marcel Cerdan of France for the European middleweight championship, held by Cerdan. The contest will be staged in London on Cerdan's return from the United States, probably in May.
Before the championship fight, Hawkins will have one or two "warming-up" bouts.

KCC CRICKET XI

The following will represent the KCC in a cricket match against the HK University on Saturday at Cox's Field, starting at 2 p.m.—S. A. Gray (Capt.), J. R. Luke, V. Bond, G. To, Dr. Willis, D. Anderson, V. White, F. E. Skinner, C. Tiersen, E. Rorrell, and R. Leigh. Scorer, T. W. Carr.

BEVIN VIGOROUSLY REFUTES CHARGES MADE BY MOLOTOV

BY SYLVAIN MANGEOT
Reuter's Diplomatic Correspondent

Moscow, Mar. 12.

Mr Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, vigorously refuted the charges levelled against Britain yesterday by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, that she was not fulfilling the demilitarisation clauses of the Potsdam Agreement at to-day's third plenary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow.

CHAUTEMPS WILL NOT FACE TRIAL

Washington, Mar. 12.
The former French Premier, Camille Chautemps, who was the Minister of State in the first Poincaré post-armistice Cabinet and who later took refuge in the United States, has decided to refuse to return to France and stand trial by the High Court of Justice as a wartime collaborator in the Vichy regime.

The trial is due to start on March 25, but through his son Chautemps announced he was not returning because he had definitely quit politics and was interested only in the artistic careers of his blind wife and child, and movie actress daughter.—United Press.

Admiral Robert Charged

Paris, Mar. 12.
In continuation of the war guilt trials of former Vichy government members Vice-Admiral Robert, 72-year-old former commander of the French West Indies possessions of Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guiana from the fall of France to July 1943, went on trial to-day before the French high court charged with "acts prejudicial to France's best interests."

He pleaded that all his acts were prompted by the fear that the United States coveted the French colonies.

During the war, he protected U.S. \$40,000,000 worth of Bank of France gold kept in Martinique for safety, and refused to hand over to the Allies three warships, including the aircraft carrier Jean, and the crack cruiser Emile Bertin.—United Press.

Ultimatum To Paris Printers

Paris, Mar. 12.
Publishers of Paris' 24 daily newspapers to-night drafted a lockout ultimatum to their pressmen, who will have been on strike for four weeks to-morrow.

The ultimatum, which will be delivered to the pressmen to-morrow, gives them 48 hours to return to work before the publishers lock out printers and all other employees, including editors, reporters, secretaries and copy boys.

The ultimatum accepts the printers' demanded wage increases, but only on condition of proportionately increased hours of labour.

The printers refused a similar offer from the Government on Sunday.—United Press.

N.Z. Import Of Livestock

Wellington, Mar. 12.
Restrictions on the direct importation into New Zealand of livestock from Britain are to be abolished, Premier Peter Fraser announced here to-day.

The embargo was introduced in 1924, according to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Edward L. Cullen, "because of the serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom."

The Department of Agriculture now considered, Mr Cullen added, that there was now no risk of the introduction of serious animal diseases if quarantine safeguards were followed.—Reuter.

FRENCH CLAIMS

Paris, Mar. 12.
The French Navy Ministry announced that its commandos in Indo-China had captured the island of Cat Ba in the Gulf of Tonkin dominating the entrance to the Haiphong river, and the site of Japanese batteries that have been troubling the French shipping in the Gulf.—United Press.

Americans Get Equal Rights In P.I.

Manila, Mar. 12.
The Philippines to-day voted overwhelmingly in favour of granting equal rights to American citizens in exploiting the nation's natural resources.—Reuter.

Mr Bevin called on the Soviet Union, firstly, to disclose how many German prisoners of war she still held in Russia and when they would be sent home and at what rate; secondly, to disclose a detailed account of what had been removed and what remained of the German war factories in the Soviet zone; thirdly, whether Russia proposed to adhere to the Potsdam clause which stipulated the treatment of Germany as an economic whole or not.

Until this information was received, Mr Bevin declared himself unable to approve Mr Molotov's four-point proposal for instructions to the Council made yesterday.

Mr Bevin divided his analysis of demilitarisation into two main divisions—the human and material aspects.

Dealing with Mr Molotov's charge that military formations were maintained in the British zone, Mr Bevin said that Mr Molotov's anxieties were unrealistic. Three million members of the Wehrmacht had been disbanded in the British zone. The remaining 81,000 were organised in a way appropriate to labour corps on a civil basis. There were no secrets attaching to them and a full account was included in the Council's report to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

"I feel that the question of Danstgruppen (Service Groups) is a bogey of which nobody need be frightened," he said.

Mr Bevin assured Mr Molotov that these units were being replaced by ordinary civil labour, but said that he could not accept the date for their disbanding anything like as close as that proposed yesterday by Mr Molotov (June 1, 1947).

Non-German Nationals

Turning to non-German nationals employed in the British zone, Mr Bevin said that he was unaware of any agreement against the employment by zone commanders of Allied nationals who fought on the Allied side. The so-called Royal Yugoslav Army referred to by Mr Molotov had been disbanded and its members were not displaced persons, Mr Bevin said. Those used as guards to replace British soldiers were unarmed with the exception of rifles for sentries and were not in their original military units.

"This watchman's corps constitutes a menace to nobody and infringes no obligation which we have taken towards any ally," he said.

The Foreign Secretary declared that he was prepared to table complete figures for prisoners of war held by the British, together with the rate of their repatriation, but said that he had no reliable information from the Soviet side on this matter.

Mr Bevin referred to the reports that a number of prisoners held in Russia had been induced to serve with the Soviet armed forces, and asked for a categorical assurance that these reports had no foundation.

Manpower Shortage

Mr Bevin completed the human side of the picture by saying that Germany, already denuded by war, had a heavy proportion of young working men, had her manpower situation aggravated by the transfer from eastern territories of vast numbers of Germans; a high proportion of whom was neither young nor fit enough for work.

"Something must be done to redress this unbalanced position, and the return of prisoners of war is an obvious step in this direction," Mr Bevin said. "This would greatly assist those engaged on the planning of Germany's economy."

Turning to the material side of demilitarisation, Mr Bevin agreed with Mr Molotov that it might be valuable to instruct the Control Council to examine the question of war material of all sorts and of fortifications, although he considered progress in this field mainly satisfactory.

Destruction Of Ships

One point he regarded as "extremely unsatisfactory," The Soviet authorities, although asked many months ago for a report on the destruction of German naval ships in their possession designated for destruction by the Tripartite Naval Commission, had given only a vague reply, which made it clear that the process of destruction had not appreciably advanced.

These ships included capital ships, aircraft carriers, submarines, etc., and could not be dismissed, as of minor importance.

"What assurance will Mr Molotov offer us on this subject?" Mr Bevin asked.

On the question of industrial demilitarisation, Mr Bevin said: "The main problem was not those factories exclusively devoted to war materials—which all agreed should be suppressed—but to decide on the exact types of plant representing war potential and in excess of legitimate peaceful needs of Germany."

German Cartels

He expressed surprise at Mr Molotov's implication that large trusts, cartels and monopolies remained in the Ruhr. Surely, Mr Molotov was aware that effective

POCKET CARTOON



LandBuying Rivalry In N. Ireland

Belfast, Mar. 12.
The Premier of Northern Ireland, Sir Basil Brooke, in the House of Commons to-day defended the action of Protestants in subscribing to a fund to enable their co-religionists to hold farms against Roman Catholic bidders.

The fund was launched after the Protestants had alleged that, in an attempt to drive them out of the country, wealthy Roman Catholics were paying high prices for land near the border with predominantly Catholic Eire.

Sir Basil said: "The Protestant population are entitled to take what action they like, provided it is legal, to protect their own interests."

Set up as an independent self-governing state after Eire had obtained home rule, Northern Ireland has a population of 1,250,000, one-third of them being Roman Catholics and two-thirds Protestants, the majority of whom are Presbyterians.—Reuter.

WOODERSON FOR OLYMPICS?

London, Mar. 12.
Sydney Wooderson dropped a possible hint to-night that he may change his mind and compete in the 1948 Olympic Games.

The wiry, bespectacled Wooderson, European 5,000 metres champion, was guest of honour at a dinner given by the Amateur Athletic Association. A speaker suggested that Wooderson compete in the 10,000 metres or the marathon event at the 1948 Olympics.

"I certainly will not run in the marathon," Wooderson said. "He refused to say whether he would run in any other event.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Articles and Parcel Post close 30 minutes earlier than the time stated below.

Thursday, March 13
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.
Sea Mail:—Bangkok, 10 a.m.; Calcutta, 10 a.m.; Ceylon, 10 a.m.; Hong Kong, 10 a.m.; London, 10 a.m.; Manila, 10 a.m.; Singapore, 10 a.m.; Swatow, 10 a.m.; Tientsin, 10 a.m.; Yokohama, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 14
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, March 16
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Monday, March 17
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 20
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Friday, March 21
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, March 22
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, March 23
Airmail:—Bangkok, 3.30 p.m.; Calcutta, 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, 3.30 p.m.; Hong Kong, 3.30 p.m.; London, 3.30 p.m.; Manila, 3.30 p.m.; Singapore, 3.30 p.m.; Swatow, 3.30 p.m.; Tientsin, 3.30 p.m.; Yokohama, 3.30 p.m.

Basutos Stage Festive Welcome For Royalty

Maseru, South Africa, Mar. 13.
Filled with meat and drink after hours of feasting, the Basutos yesterday offered homage to the Royal Family at a Pitso (gathering), a ceremony reserved for only the most important occasions.
An estimated 70,000 tribesmen packed the horseshoe-shaped flatland to see the overseas visitors. Smoke from huge cooking fires drifted over the crowd, and on the fringe half-naked children wandered excitedly. Beyond them grazed thousands of ponies.

The colourful throng swayed and chanted and shouted. Some observers described the gathering as a masterpiece of unsophisticated showmanship.

Formal greetings were exchanged between the King and the Regent, a woman, Mantsebo Seole. The King acknowledged Basutoland's contributions to the war effort and praised the colony's loyalty.

The Regent reaffirmed loyalty to the Crown, and the crowd shouted "Pula." Pula is the native word for rain, and its use on this occasion dates from an ancient onomastical to the rainmakers, whose witchcraft still survives in some areas.

The customary climax of the pitso—a foot charge down the centre of the amphitheatre—was omitted because of cramped quarters and the possibility of an accident.

The King awarded her the O.B.E. and then distributed decorations, medals and honours to chiefs in leopard skins and black soldiers in battle dress.—Associated Press.

They had been driven to this town under the care of nurses and nuns to share in Basutoland's historic welcome to their Majesties.

Deprived of most of the normal associations and enjoyments, the patients, their faces disfigured by the dread disease, waved eagerly from the open windows of the bus and called out greetings as Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, in bright summery frocks and looking healthier than ever because of their riding, swimming and walking, approached.

The Princesses, keenly responsive to such situations, smiled and waved back, and as they drew closer there was a hum of voices in which those of their royal Highnesses could be detected.

Taking leave at last, the Princesses smiled yielded to expressions of shock and pity. Elizabeth said: "What a dreadful thing to happen to children," and Margaret replied: "Terrible."—Associated Press.

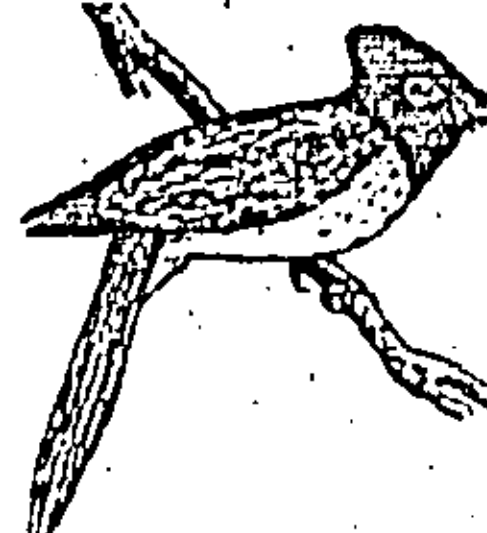
SHIPPING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At the end of 1946, the world total of shipping under construction amounted to about 3,970,000 tons deadweight. Over 50 percent of this, or about 1,940,000 tons, is being built in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The United States comes second with 327,000 tons, followed by Sweden with 248,000 tons. The tonnage being built in Sweden comprises in all 60 vessels, 59 motor ships, aggregating almost 234,000 tons, and seven steamers of in all 14,000 tons.

Assassination Attempt

Peshawar, Mar. 12.
An attempt was made on the life of Rai Bahadur Mehr Chand Khanna, Minister of Finance and Information of the Northwest Frontier Province to-day. The Minister escaped unhurt. He is a Hindu.—Reuter.



THE BIRDS OF HONGKONG

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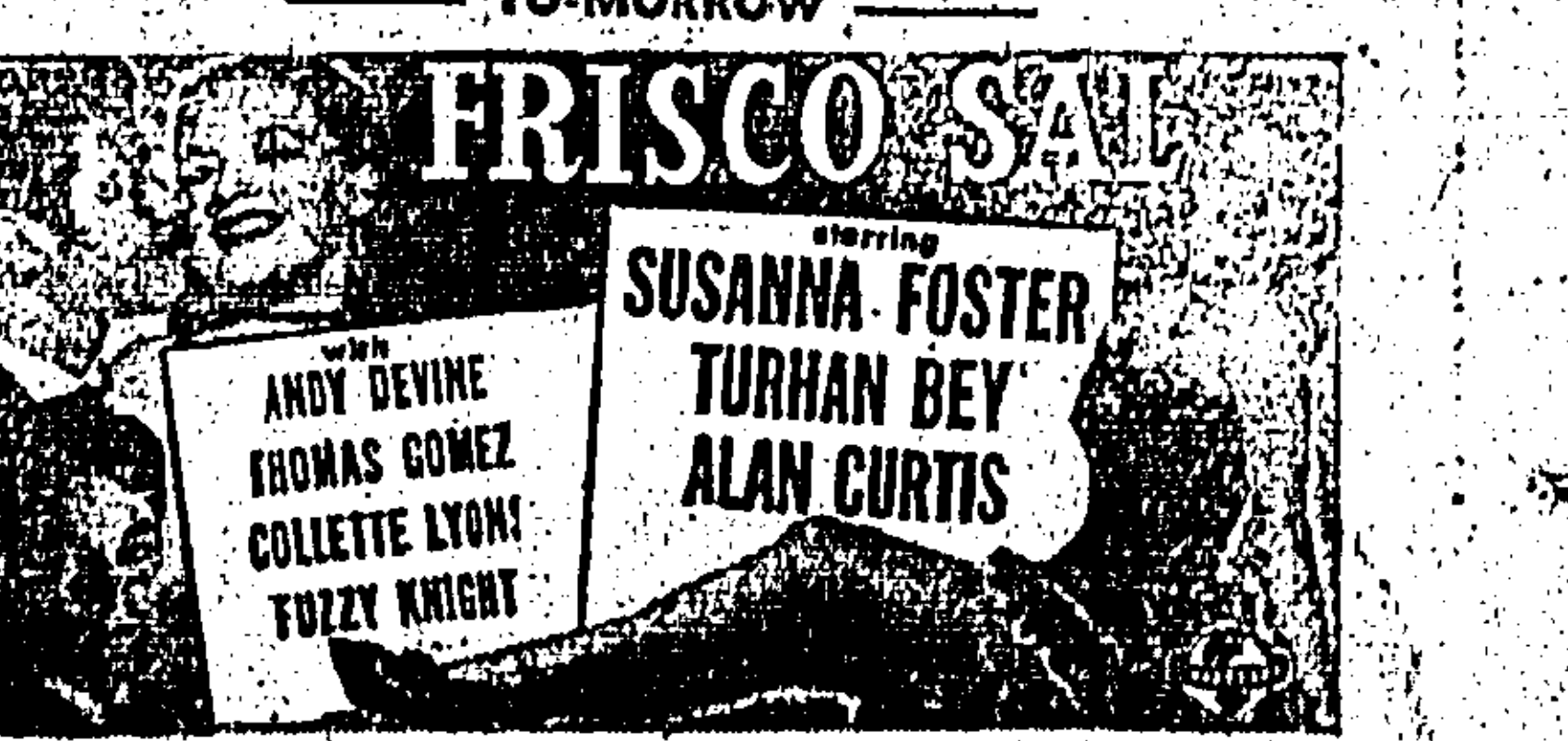
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